FREE ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS!

During recent months, we have seen a dramatic increase in the number of political jailings throughout the U.S.. New FBI guidelines have been issued for increased harassment and surveillance of political activists, and special forces such as the RICO Grand Jury and the Joint Terrorist Task force have been set up by the bourgeoisie to maximize the rate at which political prisoners are taken in. For anyone in the revolutionary movement, the question arises: What is the meaning of the recent wave of political arrests, and what must be done about it?

First, we must look at the setting in which this is taking place. The bourgeoisie is locked in a crisis it cannot solve. Revolutionary movements throughout the world are loosening its grip over colonies and neocolonies. Competition between imperialist countries for markets (steel, cars, computers, farm products, etc.) is weakening the imperialist class, particularly here in the U.S.. In order to maintain the maximum rate of profit, the U.S. bourgeoisie has found it necessary to attack the quality of life of the U.S. working class. This attack has taken the form of budget cuts, a strong antilabor stand, tax cuts for the rich and total retreat from all the programs that addressed certain needs of the working class. So the bourgeoisie has increased its rate of exploitation of the domestic working class in order to maximize its profits. This exploitation has been particularly severe for Blacks and other oppressed nationalities, who were much worse off to begin with.

Under these conditions, the bourgeoisie sees revolution as a real possibility and a real threat. They know that the present economic crisis can only sharpen an already revolutionary situation: after all, repeated rioting in Miami and elsewhere are only warnings about more spontaneous uprisings to come as things get worse. Furthermore, the ruling class is clear that resistance by the masses against their oppression will take many forms, but that the most threatening to imperialism is revolution. So they must prevent the revolutionary movement from growing, by any means available. Basic counter-revolutionary and anti-communist propaganda together with low-key surveillance and harassment of political activists are no longer sufficient. Therefore, the ruling class has increases its propaganda and the reign of terror in our communities, and in order to prevent us from becoming organized, the bourgeoisie is now trying to snatch the leadership of the revolutionary movement. By leadership, we mean the most advanced forces, i.e., those who most consistently take an uncompromising stand toward our oppressors. This is the story of the Joint Terrorist Task Force and the RICO Grand Jury, and that's the reason why comrades Sundiata Acoli, James York, Abdul Majid and many others are now in jail.

Though drastic it is, political incarceration is not a new tactic: it is a desperate move by the bourgeoisie which sees a growing revolutionary movement which it cannot control. On the one hand, that they can find and jail so many of our comrades points to some weaknesses in our movement at its present level. On the other hand, that the bourgeoisie is so systematically attacking democratic rights and institutions only shows us that the ruling class realizes that it is indeed quite vulnerable.

But what can they accomplish by taking political prisoners? Certainly, through this they can temporarily throw the movement in disarray, especially given its low level of organization. But this can hardly be the final answer to the bourgeoisie's problems, for all this can do is to buy them time. Revolutionaries and revolutionary leadership develop out of the oppressive conditions created and maintained by capitalism. Our vanguard, our freedom fighters embody the aspirations of the millions of people who are oppressed and want to be free. So long as oppression exists, there will be revolutionaries and a revolutionary movement. As Toussaint L'Ouverture said, " By making me prisoner, you have only cut the trunk of the tree of black liberation, but it will regrow by its roots, for they are deep and numerous. "

Though the bourgeoisie's tricks can only cause temporary setbacks, we cannot settle for that: we must minimize our losses and move on to defeat our enemy. Even though we know that new leadership will arise out of the objective conditions, we must fiercely struggle to keep the bourgeoisie's hands off revolutionaries and freedom fighters. This we must do by any means necessary. We must continue, through highs and lows, to support our comrades who are now in the enemy's hands, and struggle to set them free, as we did Assata Shakur.

As the present economic crisis deepens and the revolutionary movement grows, the bourgeoisie will become more desperate and use more vicious tactics. How successful they are will depend, in part, on how seriously we, the masses, take up our revolutionary task to protect our vanguard.

FREE ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS!

REVOLUTION IS NOT A CRIME!

LONG LIVE ASSATA SHAKUR!

VICTORY IN OUR LIFETIME!

JOIN US AT THE VIGIL FOR THE GRAND JURY RESISTERS ON THE

26TH DAY OF EACH MONTH AT THE

Metropolitan correctional Center
150 Park Row
(IRT #4 or 5 Lexington Ave. Train to Brooklyn Bridge)

MOBILIZATION COMMITTEE

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